

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE NEEDS IN THE SAHEL

ROME FOR FODAG; PARIS FOR HELMAN

FROM AA/AFR, S.C. ADAMS, JR. TO RDO'S/CDO'S/PORT FFPO'S

1. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT DROUGHT RELATED HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE SAHEL DIMINISHED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING 1974. DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS PROVED CRUCIAL DURING EARLY PART OF YEAR, AND FAVORABLE RAIN PATTERNS DURING JUNE-SEPTEMBER RESULTED IN CROP YIELDS WHICH HAVE GREATLY INCREASED ABILITY OF SAHELIAN POPULATIONS TO MEET THEIR CURRENT BASIC FOOD REQUIREMENTS. THERE IS A GROWING SENSE OF CONFIDENCE--BOTH AMONG SAHEL GOVERNMENTS AND PRINCIPAL DONORS--THAT IMPROVED CONDITIONS NOW PERMIT MORE INTENSE FOCUSING ON LONGER-TERM APPROACHES FOR DEALING WITH UNDERLYING DROUGHT RELATED PROBLEMS.

2. AT SAME TIME, THERE IS A NAGGING UNEASINESS PROMPTED BY UNCERTAINTIES WHICH PERSIST, CONCERNING SAHEL'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WHILE HUMAN CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE, AT THIS TIME, THAT SIZEABLE POPULATION GROUPS (SEDENTARY AS WELL AS NOMADIC) WILL NOT REVERT TO DESTITUTE STATE EITHER BEFORE OR DURING

1975 RAINY SEASON. THREE SIGNIFICANT UNCERTAINTIES HOVER ON HORIZON:

--WILL SUFFICIENT FOOD AVAILABILITIES MATERIALIZE?
CURRENT FOOD AVAILABILITY PROJECTIONS MAY PROVE INACCURATE, SINCE THEY ARE BASED PARTLY ON CRUDE HARVEST ESTIMATES WHICH ACTUAL-YIELD FIGURES MAY BELIE AND PARTLY ON DONOR QUOTE COMMITMENTS UNQUOTE WHICH MAY BE HELD BACK AS A RESULT OF OPTIMISTIC HARVEST PROJECTIONS.
--WILL FOOD DISTRIBUTION PLANS BE IMPLEMENTED ON SCHEDULE?
THE 1975 MULTI-DONOR MISSION REPORTED THAT SAHEL GOVERNMENTS HAVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PLANS TO INSURE PREPOSITIONING OF REQUIRED STOCKS IN THOSE FOOD-DEFICIT AREAS WHICH WILL BECOME INACCESSIBLE TO OVERLAND TRAFFIC DURING UNCLASSIFIED

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RAINY SEASON. LOGISTICAL COMPLEXITY OF THESE DISTRIBUTION PLANS, HOWEVER, MAY PLACE PREPOSITIONING TASKS OUT-OF-THE-REACH OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS.

--WILL SUFFICIENT PREVENTIVE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO FORESTALL EPIDEMIC OUTBREAKS?
HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN SAHEL ARE PARTICULARLY FRAGILE. IT IS FEARED THAT RECENT IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN AREA WILL INDUCE A QUOTE LETDOWN UNQUOTE IN

MONITORING OF DISEASE INCIDENCE TRENDS, THEREBY REDUCING CHANCES OF EFFECTIVELY CHECKING DISEASE OUTBREAKS DURING INCIPIENT STAGES.

3. IN VIEW OF THESE UNCERTAINTIES, THERE IS A CLEAR NEED FOR CLOSE MONITORING OF THE SAHEL SITUATION IN COMING MONTHS. AID HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO UN/FAO AUTHORITIES OUR CONCERN THAT THERE MAY BE AN UNFORTUNATE LETDOWN ON THE PART OF DONORS DUE TO IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN THE SAHEL. FURTHER, WE HAVE URGED THAT OSRO'S RELIEF COORDINATION ROLE BE EXTENDED AND REINFORCED AT LEAST THROUGH 1975 HARVEST PERIOD.

4. AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST OUR AID SAHEL FIELD STAFFS TO REMAIN VIGILANT TO SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE NEEDS AS THEY EMERGE IN SAHEL. ALL OF US WILL BE SPENDING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT DURING NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS IN MOUNTING AID'S MEDIUM TERM SAHEL PROGRAM. WE WOULD BE REMISS, HOWEVER, IF WE OVERLOOKED BASIC CURRENT NEEDS OF SAHELIAN POPULATIONS IN VITAL AREAS OF FOOD AND HEALTH. I ASK YOU PARTICULARLY TO STAY ABREAST OF EFFORTS WHICH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT IS UNDERTAKING IN FOLLOWING AREAS:

- FOOD PREPOSITIONING IN FOOD-DEFICIT LOCALES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BECOME INACCESSIBLE DURING 1975 RAINS;
- DISEASE-INCIDENCE MONITORING TO PREVENT EPIDEMIC OUTBREAKS;
- CONTINGENCY MEASURES TO ACCOMMODATE NOMADIC GROUPS

WHICH MAY CONGREGATE FOR ASSISTANCE DURING APRIL/SEPTEMBER 1975;

- PROTECTION OF IN-COUNTRY DONATED FOOD SUPPLIES AGAINST INSECT DESTRUCTION AND/OR SPOILAGE; AND

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- PLANT PROTECTION STRATEGY TO MINIMIZE 1975 CROP LOSSES.

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN THESE CRUCIAL AREAS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REVEAL OBSTACLES WHICH MAY PREVENT THE GOVERNMENT FROM MEETING ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE COMING MONTHS. SOME OF THESE OBSTACLES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESCRIBED BY MULTI-DONOR MISSION AND THE AID AT-RISK MISSION. NEITHER OF THESE TEAMS COULD PREDICT IN NOVEMBER, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH SUCCESS INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE IN OVERCOMING SUCH OBSTACLES DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1975. CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS--BY FEBRUARY 20--ON THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN ABOVE-LISTED AREAS.

5. YOUR ASSESSMENT--BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, OTHER DONOR REPRESENTATIVES, AND YOUR FIELD TRIP OBSERVATIONS--MAY LEAD YOU TO REQUEST SHORT-TERM AID ASSISTANCE (I.E., ASSISTANCE WHICH WILL HAVE INTENDED EFFECT BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND OCTOBER, 1975). FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONNECTION WITH 1975 FOOD PRE-POSITIONING EFFORTS, DONOR ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED TO CONVERT/RENT EXISTING FACILITIES FOR STORAGE PURPOSES OR CONSTRUCT SIMPLE PLATFORMS TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HEAVY TARPS FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE. SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD CLEARLY FALL WITHIN SHORT-TERM- ASSISTANCE CATEGORY WHEREAS CONSTRUCTION OF 10,000 MT STEEL-REINFORCED WAREHOUSE IN CAPITAL CITY WOULD PROBABLY BE PRECLUDED BY REASON OF CONSTRUCTION TIME ALONE. PRO(UREMENT LEAD-TIME FOR HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS WOULD SEEM ELIMINATE TRUCK PURCHASING FROM SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE CATEGORY WHEREAS RENTAL COSTS FOR SPECIAL PRE-POSITIONING TRUCK CONVOY TRIP PRIOR TO RAINS WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE REVIEW. WHILE FUNDS FOR NATIONAL MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, A REQUEST TO STRENGTHEN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE MECHANISMS IN NOMAD CAMPS WOULD FALL WITHIN SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

6. IN ORDER TO SPEED AID/W REVIEW OF ANY REQUESTS WHICH RESULT FROM YOUR ASSESSMENT, WE URGE THAT REQUESTS BE ACCOMPANIED BY A BRIEF NARRATIVE CONTAINING:
--PRECISE STATEMENT OF PROBLEM (GRAVITY, DIMENSIONS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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LIKELY EFFECTS IF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IS NOT PROVIDED);
--ESTIMATE OF FINANCIAL/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INPUTS WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE STATED OBJECTIVES;

--IDENTIFICATION OF HOST GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH WILL ORCHESTRATE REQUIRED INPUTS;
--INPUTS WHICH OTHER DONORS WILL BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE;
--INPUTS BEING REQUESTED OF AID;
--AMOUNT OF UNUSED R/R OR COUNTERPART FUNDS WHICH COULD BE UTILIZED FOR REQUESTED ACTIVITY; AND
--RECOMMENDATION BY CDO/RDO WITH RESPECT TO NATURE AND FUNDING LEVEL FOR AID PARTICIPATION.

7. AS FIELD POSTS AWARE, THE AID R/R PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY BEING EVALUATED WITH INTENT OF REFINING R/R ACTIVITY CRITERIA. CONSEQUENTLY, NEW REQUESTS FOR 1975 SHORT-TERM IMMEDIATE IMPACT ASSISTANCE WILL BE REVIEWED FROM STANDPOINT OF NORMS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS 4, 5, AND 6, ABOVE, RATHER THAN EXISTING R/R GUIDELINES.

8. FOR FFPO'S/ABIDJAN, DAKAR AND LAGOS: FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, YOUR FEBRUARY 20 ASSESSMENT OF 1975 PORT AND

INLAND-EVACUATION CONDITIONS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MULTI-DONOR MISSION PROJECTIONS FOR MARCH-APRIL GRAIN SHIPMENTS (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS DIRECTLY WITH THESE PROJECTIONS). YOUR ASSESSMENT SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THOSE ISSUES WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED ASAP BY ESTABLISHED PORT COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE MAJOR PORT PROBLEMS WHICH SLOWED DONOR RELIEF EFFORTS DURING 1974. WE REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT DONOR SHIPPING SCHEDULES WERE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PORT CONGESTION LAST YEAR AND AID/W WILL BE WORKING WITH OSRO ON THIS PROBLEM.

9. FINALLY, AS YOU PREPARE YOUR FEBRUARY 20 ASSESSMENT, I ASK YOU TO BE PARTICULARLY ALERT TO WAYS IN WHICH THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY-TYPE SITUATIONS CAN BE STRENGTHENED. WHAT USEFUL INTERVENTIONS CAN BE MADE TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS IN MONITORING PROBLEM SITUATIONS SO THAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO FORESTALL THE BUILDING UP OF QUOTE CRISES UNQUOTE? WHAT CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TRAINING

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PERSONNEL IN SUCH AREAS AS EMERGENCY PLANNING, LOGISTICS/ SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK NEEDS? WHAT APPROACHES HAVE PROVEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN INSURING CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN HOST GOVERNMENTS AND DONORS DURING THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY? I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR INSIGHTS IN THESE AREAS SINCE OUR ATTENTION WILL BE INCREASINGLY FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSE-CAPABILITY TO EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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